

Waste Collection Companies Meeting Notes October 6, 2005

Companies with Attendees: Reston Trash, Virginia Trash, American Disposal, PDS, CSI, AAA, New Visions, CSI, Trash Away

County staff: Joyce Doughty, Jeff Smithberger, Randy Hancock, Charlie Forbes, Pamela Gratton, Catherine Lunsford, John Childress, Linda Boone

Guests: J.R. Holt

The meeting began at 5:07 p.m.

Introductions/Welcome

Joyce Doughty and Jeff Smithberger welcomed everyone.

Announcements/Updates

Jeff is back after spending three weeks in Louisiana supporting hurricane recovery efforts in New Orleans.

A change has been made to the entrance to I-66 Transfer Station. County staff has added a 3-way stop sign at the entrance to the scale area. Traffic leaving the facility will now have to stop before proceeding out the gate. Trucks entering the scale area must stop before making the left turn into the scale ramp. Joyce asked the collection companies to advise their drivers of the new traffic control measures.

AAA has been using the County's Emergency Announcement Network (EAN). They find it helpful to receive notices about weather event or serious accidents. County staff encouraged all collection companies to sign up and participate in the communications.

Quality Customer Service Standards

County staff has added the names of companies that are participating in the Quality Customer Service Standards program to the County's website. Some collectors are using their participation in the program as a marketing tool when bidding for new work. If your company is not listed and you wish to be, contact Linda Boone at 703-324-5230 or sign the letter sent to you and return it. County staff will happily add your name to the list.

Aging Scales

The scales at County facilities are aging. Linda Boone asked companies to remind their drivers to enter the scales slowly and brake lightly, as well as accelerate slowly. Hard braking or fast accelerations can cause the scales to rock and this constant use causes bolts to break or the scales to be off alignment. Further, this kind of driving could be cited as a violation of the facility rules and the load charged a higher disposal rate. The scales need to last for several more years before they can be replaced. Please ask drivers to be careful in using the County scales.

Collector Issues

Q: How are complaints going?

A: County staff is receiving fewer complaints. The ones we have are about early collections. The start time is 6:00 am. Mixing recyclables is also a concern. If you use different equipment to collect recyclables, try to inform your customers of that. County staff has observed trash and recyclables going in the same truck and we are sending letters about the incidents. Price increases may also be a concern—ensure your customers get the notice of rate increases at least 30 days prior to the rate going into effect. Please let the County know about changes in prices to customers and to your contract customers also.

Q: Can the County charge a truck permit fee to an account rather than pay for the permits separately?

A: County will look at that.

NOTE: The County will allow collectors whose accounts are current to pay for their FY2007 permits on their July 2006 monthly invoice.

Sanitary Districts Announcements

Notice has been sent to collection companies about the public hearing to consider 5 new districts that were requested by homeowners to receive County trash and/or leaf collection.

Q: If leaf collection only, does the County have the same price for all districts?

A: Yes, the areas may have County leaf collection but have private collection of waste. Costs are going up, so the County has no plan to reduce the 1.5 cents per \$1000 valuation of the house. If County costs go down, the County will consider reducing its rates.

Q: During leaf season is there communication and interaction with VDOT, e.g. concerning drainage and flooding issues?

A: Yes, County staff communicates with VDOT about leaf collection issues. We ask customers not to rake leaves into drainage ditches, we are aware of VDOT repaving projects, etc.

Q: Has the County started leaf collection yet?

A: No, not until the end of October, when we typically make 3 passes through the districts. We may accelerate that to start a week before the end of October, if the leaves fall earlier.

Recycling Program Updates and Brochure

Pamela Gratton provided a new draft of the brochure. County staff is still accepting comments and ideas. The purpose of the brochure is for collectors to send this flyer to their customers as part of a countywide public outreach effort concerning proper recycling of materials.

Collection companies suggested changes to the brochure that included:

- ◆ Glassware was omitted from the “NO” recycling list;
- ◆ Glass illustration looks suspiciously like a jar.
- ◆ One collector was concerned about “In the bin” comment since her company does not provide bins.
- ◆ Plastic bottles could show milk jugs as well as other bottles.
- ◆ Labels comment should be highlighted or displayed so you don’t have to read it.

Pamela advised that the time is ending to accept comments, please get any other comments to County staff quickly.

January is the mandatory start date for collection of additional recycling materials on the flyer. It is a Chapter 109 violation not to collect the new materials beginning in January.

Highlights of Proposed Revisions to Chapter 109 Changes

Charlie Forbes presented a high-level review of the provisions of Chapter 109 that are being revised. There are significant reasons to change the Code: to implement the Solid Waste Management Plan and Solid Waste Task Force recommendations; to clarify policies and regulation for collection companies, regulators and the community in general; to reorganize the requirements so they are clear and easy to understand; to consolidate like items and requirements in one location; and to broaden the language to include most instances.

Construction/Demolition/Debris recycling is needed since CDD landfill capacity is being exhausted. New materials need to be added to the Code. Effective enforcement of the Code is needed.

Service issues to be addressed in the new changes include: missed collections; distinguishing between yard waste and brush; notification of amount of rate increase along with notice of rate increase; and others.

There will be a crosswalk from the old version to the new one of the Code.

County staff will have a good draft for the Collectors' meeting in January 2006. Public notice will be given in February 2006 with the Public hearing/adoption in March 2006.

A collector stated that the annual notice to customers about services/costs will be costly to collectors. County wants to keep the requirement in the changes to Chapter 109.

Q: Is the County still considering a staggered permit schedule?

A: Yes

Q: What are the preferred months?

A: During the winter.

Before County staff changes the permit schedule, the collection companies will be notified and asked for input.

Draft Chapter 109 will probably be handed out at the next meeting. If County staff can get it done before then, we will try to send it.

Operational Items

The E/RRF is in outage at this time; one boiler will be up on Tuesday. Then there is a 2-week break before the next outages start. 500-700 tons per day are being hauled out of the system, so collectors can get access to the tip floor. The County cannot take out too much waste out of the system because our model indicates that after the next outages we will be short on trash. Let the County know if there are problems on the tip floor. We are making every effort to have

Covanta keep the tip floor open. Prince William County waste is out of the system for the month of October through November 14.

Q: What is the average input of waste countywide?

A: The E/RRF is about at capacity. The County's plan has always been to run the E/RRF near its capacity. In the past, the County took more waste from other jurisdictions, now the waste is mostly from Fairfax County. To keep tip fees low, we want to process as much waste as possible within the permit limits.

We need to pull out more recyclables to maintain capacity at the E/RRF.

Q: Are there any new plants proposed?

A: No.

Q: Regarding yard waste, any discussion about Prince William and Loudoun Counties requiring yard waste recycling?

A: Both counties are exploring that issue. Loudoun Composting and Prince William County's existing facilities have current capacity to process what is delivered.

Collectors were asked to communicate about inclement weather and their collection schedules with the County as well as their customers. County staff can then respond appropriately if we get calls from customers.

Q: Are collectors having problems getting enough diesel fuel?

A: Not currently. The County cannot routinely offer fuel to private collectors. Perhaps we can do that if there is an emergency. In the 70's trash collectors were a priority for gasoline.

If there is a crisis, perhaps the County can change some of the requirements or remove requirements about selling diesel to private collection companies.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: January 5, 2006 at 5:00 P.M. GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 4/5